

## CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO

### *Of Mines and Men—the Story of Keetley*

Few pursuits in life have had more influence on men than mining. Civilization itself prospered as men learned to take metal ores from the earth and fashion the substances into useful tools. Precious minerals and valuable ores have caused great cities and small towns to rise and fall with mining's fortunes and tides. Many men have given their lives as they struggled to take nature's treasures from deep within the earth. Mining, too, has usually written the character references of those who pursued it, as some have been motivated by a sincere desire to find things they could share and others have searched only for themselves and their greed.

Wasatch County has been vitally concerned with mines and miners, as has already been explained in earlier chapters. Vigorous mining progress in the Park City area had a great impact on commerce and industry in Wasatch towns, and much of the county's colorful history centers around the men of the mines.

The county's northern-most settlement, the town of Keetley, owes its existence to mining activity. It was the last community in the county to be organized, and for several decades was known and identified only as a mining shaft. Its location was first plotted in 1887 when leaders of the Park City Mining District chose a point of elevation for the portal of a drainage tunnel from the properties of the Daly Mining Company and the Ontario Silver Mining Company.

The Ontario-Daly No. 2 Drain Tunnel, as the project became known, was a tremendous undertaking for the time. It was to be more than 15,000 feet in length, cost nearly half a million dollars and take six years to complete. By 1898 the tunnel had been extended from the present site of Keetley into the Daly West Mining Company ground, a total of over 20,500 feet and had cost well over \$670,000.

The man chosen to supervise the work on the tunnel was one of the west's most picturesque mining characters, John B. "Jack" Keetley, as well known for his Pony Express riding as for his mining prowess. He reportedly purchased the famous Last Chance property at Bingham from the original locator for a horse and saddle, and paid for building a cabin on the claim with a six shooter. After working the property for a year, Mr. Keetley sold it for \$17,000. The claim has since yielded millions of dollars worth of ore.

A generous man, Mr. Keetley was particularly fond of youngsters. Many residents of Wasatch County today who were youngsters during



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the years of construction of the Ontario-Daly Drain Tunnel remember "Jack" Keetley for his kindness to them as they romped over the hills under which his men were digging. Years later, George A. Fisher, prominent cattleman and land developer, named the community which developed in the valley below the mining project, Keetley, in honor of his "childhood hero."

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was later incorporated with other holdings to form the "Star of Utah," which in turn became the New Park Mine.

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ducted systematic development work by which one of the richest ore bodies in Wasatch County was discovered. During the 1920's alone this company paid nearly three million dollars worth of dividends.

One of the persons largely responsible for pin-pointing this wealth near Keetley was Oscar N. Friendly, a native of Oregon who studied mining engineering at the University of California at Berkeley. During his summer vacation periods he worked at the old Highland Boy mine in Salt Lake's Bingham District, and also at the Daly West mine in Park City. His first full time job after graduation in 1907 was an engineer-surveyor for the Daly West property. In 1909 he became engineer and geologist for the Daly Judge Mining Co., the firm which later was the nucleus of the Park Utah Mining Company.

George W. Lambourne, head of the Daly Judge firm asked Mr. Friendly to work on classification of rock formations in the Keetley area, and it was through this work that Mr. Friendly found there was more than one occurrence of ore in the area. His development work disclosed ore bodies extending through much of the region.

Another major developer of the area was Paul H. Hunt, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, and a California schoolmate of Mr. Friendly. He served as general manager of the Park Utah Mining Company, and then in 1925 when the Judge, Daly West, Park Utah, Ontario and other properties were merged to form the Park Utah Consolidated Mining Co., Mr. Hunt was named manager and Mr. Friendly assistant general manager.

In addition to his leadership in mining, Mr. Hunt was also a member of the Wasatch County Commission and served in both houses of the Utah Legislature. He was also founder and president of the Associated Civic Clubs of Northern Utah. He retired from mining in 1955 and died in California on April 17, 1958.

As the Park Utah Mining Company was doing its development work in the 1920's in the Blue Ledge area, those owning claims on the



Paul H. Hunt, general manager of the mines at Keetley for many years, and prominent in Wasatch County civic and political circles.

south side of McHenry Canyon made concentrated efforts to reach hidden treasures they all felt lay in the mountain ranges.

One group of claimants organized the Star of Utah under the direction of Charles (Charlie) Moore and John Fisher. Several Wasatch County men participated in this mining work. By 1930 the prospects showed ore rich enough to make financial success possible, and then the great depression of the 1930's struck the area and the work was slowed down.

Jack Keeler, a bachelor whose eyesight was so poor he could scarcely



Harry R. Wallace, early superintendent of the Park Utah Consolidated Mines.



detect daylight from darkness, spent his lifetime in the area digging a tunnel which later proved to be headed directly for rich ore. However, old age and infirmity forced him to yield before he struck "pay dirt." He sold his claim to the Mayflower Corp., which was working from a different portal along with the Star of Utah group. Enough ore was transported by truck to Heber City from this portal that an extension spur of the Union Pacific Railroad was built to the property in 1941.

The Star of Utah and the Mayflower tunnel developments were eventually merged to form the New Park Mine, whose stock sold briskly on the New York Stock Exchange for several years.

This lead and zinc mining firm was a weird legal tangle when William Henry Harrison Cranmer took over as its president in 1934. The property was mortgaged, titles to its lands were clouded and there was a debt of some \$100,000. Mr. Cranmer borrowed money to clear liens against the title, sold small pieces of land to neighboring mining companies and struggled in many ways to secure sufficient capital to maintain operations.

Under Mr. Cranmer's leadership the New Park Mining Company has increased its property holdings from 1,100 acres to more than 10,000 acres. The Mayflower Mine has been modernized and a Mayflower Tunnel completed.

In recent years a depressed lead and zinc market has caused Mr. Cranmer to diversify New Park's holdings to overcome a slump in the company's mining operations. Now more of a holding company than an operating concern, New Park activity has embraced exploration in phosphate, potash, copper, gold, building stone, oil and uranium. Mr. Cranmer is also exploring and developing mineral lands in Wasatch County's Snake Creek Mining District.

New Park maintains its operating office at Keetley and its executive office in Salt Lake City. Gale A. Hansen is superintendent of mines at Keetley, with offices in the community's former school building.

The growth of Keetley as a community came largely as a result of the success of the Park Utah mine in the 1920's. The Ontario-Daly No. 2 Drain Tunnel had operated in the area since the late 1890's, but had never caused much community development. The tunnel, still operated by its owners, the United Park City Mines Company, was a dual blessing when it was completed. In addition to ridding the Ontario and Daly mines of excess water, it was a boon to farmers in the low-lands. Orson Hicken, David Hicken, Fred Hicken and others dug a canal to carry the waters down to the meadows.

Even before Keetley's mining boom, Mr. and Mrs. Gail Fisher lived in the area in a rambling farm house on the Fisher Ranch. When the Union Pacific Railroad came to the Keetley area in 1923 the community's future seemed secure, and Charles Roy Lenzi of Park City was hired to paint the houses and mine buildings that had been constructed around the Ontario-Daly tunnel. When the painting was completed, Mr. Lenzi

decided to settle in the new area. He brought his family from Park City and settled in one of the nine houses along the ridge of the hill east of the mine building. Other homes were occupied by Archie Henderson, Will O'Brien, William Luke, Roy Pettie, Paul Hunt, William Fife, Ralph Stringham and George D. Blood. Later a house was built on the side of the road going down the ridge. Frank Hyde and later Harry Wallace, superintendent of the Park Utah Consolidated Mines, lived in this home. Another five families built homes in the canyon back of the mine building. These were Charles Welch, Al Ross, E. A. Hewitt, Robert Hyde and William Haueter. Mine buildings included an office, shops, boiler room, boarding house, commissary and two bunk houses. Later, two more bunk houses were built to accommodate the 500 to 600 men who came to the area in its boom days.

George A. Fisher, who did much of the land development in the area, supervised most of Keetley's growth. He built five modern homes, a combination store and gas station, and later an apartment house. He served as mayor of Keetley from the 1920's until his death in July, 1954. As mayor he directed the erection of an imposing school building.

Mr. Fisher, as mentioned earlier, also named the community in honor of Jack Keetley. This name created an interesting condition when postal service was inaugurated in the summer of 1923. Charles Roy Lenzi was named as postmaster and the service was very well received in the community. However, George Blood, acting superintendent of mines, discovered in the official community records that the town's name had been incorrectly recorded as "Keatley." A sign had even been placed over the post office with this incorrect spelling.

When the error was brought to the attention of the Postmaster General in Washington, he had to cancel the appointment of Charles Lenzi as postmaster, then recorded the name correctly and reappointed Mr. Lenzi as postmaster. This was done in November, 1923. Mr. Lenzi served continuously as Keetley's postmaster until 1952 when he retired and the post office was discontinued.



Charles Roy Lenzi,  
postmaster of Keetley  
from 1923 to 1952.



and Lettie Lenzi, his  
wife and assistant  
postmaster.

One of the most grueling tasks connected with mining in Keetley was hauling ore to Heber City before the railroad came to the area. Loads were weighed in at John A. Fortie's weighing station, and then the teamsters drove the distance to Heber's railroad depot. Some of the teamsters who shared the difficult assignment were James Provost, William Provost, William D. Murray, Bert Murray, John (Jack) Casper, Tom Harper, Craig Fisher, Ewing Peterson, Henry Clegg, John Noakes, Frank Hicken, George Giles, Hyrum Winterton, Theodore Jaspersen, Moroni Casper, Ray Davis, Leland Wootton, Addison O. Moulton, Henry Baird, Alwin Baird, John (Jack) Turner, Tom Rasband, Don Rasband, Arthur Moulton, Ernest Hicken, David Murdock, Clifford McDonald, Otto McDonald, and William Holmes.

Depressed mining conditions in recent years have resulted in a slowing down at Keetley. Many families have moved away, but the community is far from a "ghost town." Those who have remained carry on an active life in working at the mines, engaging in farming and operating the motel and other businesses along much traveled U.S. Highway 40.

The intrigue of prospecting for gold and other precious metals will probably keep Keetley alive forever. The fortunes that have been lost in fruitless shafts and barren tracts will never discourage some from believing that there are still new fortunes to be made.

Typical of this is the case of "Pete" Johnson, who prospected for years in Dutch Canyon. About 1923 he proposed to some fellow miners at the Park Utah that they join together in a prospecting venture. Roy Lenzi, George Olson, Lee Johnson, Charles Smith and Bert Lindsay agreed to grub-stake "Pete" in his efforts to find ore.

For more than a quarter of a century the claimants referred to their claim as the "Lost Capital of Poverty Gulch." However, in recent years "Pete" passed away, and when his estate was settled the claim was sold to the New Park Mining Company, and each of the participants received at least double their original investment.

With many others, they still believe that gold lies concealed in "them thar hills!"

## CHAPTER THIRTY-THREE

### *The "Other Faces" of Wasatch*

Any area that reaches the century mark in its growth stands as another witness to the most common phenomenon of life—change. Wasatch County is no exception. Prosperous Provo Valley has flourished as men have changed the landscape and introduced improved, new ways of living.

Some areas of Wasatch County have changed more than others. The "boom and bust" area of Soldiers Summit was once a flourishing community and now is a ghost town. Hailstone or Elkhorn was the scene of a prosperous lumbering operation and now is little more than a widened highway. Developments were begun in both Provo Canyon and Daniels Canyon, and these, too, have given way to new highway projects. Still another changing area in the extreme north east part of the county is Strawberry Reservoir, a delightful resort and fishing spot, now undergoing a transition through conservation and wildlife practices.

#### SOLDIERS SUMMIT

Tragedy, a railroad boom and now near oblivion are the brief steps of history in Soldiers Summit, one of the few communities in Wasatch County that lies outside Provo Valley.

The ghost town of today had its beginning about 1862 in the midst of tragedy. Soldiers from Johnston's Army that had been stationed at Camp Floyd were recalled to aid in the Civil War. Desiring to return to the East as quickly as possible many of the soldiers started up Spanish Fork Canyon along the pass between the Colorado Basin and the Great Basin. Caught in a blizzard common to the high mountain country, they died from exposure. The bodies were buried near the pass at a spot which became known as "Soldiers Summit" in their honor.

Years later as railroads began operating in the state the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad found it advantageous to establish a traffic control point at the summit. Extra locomotives were needed to pull the trains over the pass, and the crews that operated these engines were based at Soldiers Summit. A round-house was built there to be used in turning the locomotives around, and the area began to flourish.

In 1919 a real estate firm headed by H. C. Means began to promote the area in a development program. The government, which at that time was operating the railroads, threw its support behind the development and the boom was on.

Soldiers Summit was incorporated as a city in 1921 by H. O. Means.

## Keetley Utah in Wasatch Co. Facts:

located 10 mi n.o. of Heber in the heart of the 1500 acre Fisher Ranch & the Utah's silver-lead mining district.

Town Built in 1923 by Geo A Fisher on Fisher Ranch ①

Keetley is hub of <sup>community</sup> activity of the Park Utah & New Park Mining Companies.

Geo A Fisher planned and supervised the building of the Town & was Mayor of the Town till he died in 1954.

## List of Families who lived at Keetley Ut:

{ John H Keetley also called:  
Jack Keetley and wife

chief Engineer

Geo. A Fisher & Annie McMillan Founder of Keetley in 1922 till 17 July 1954.

James Fisher woodman of Park Utah Mining

W. War II Boys from Keetley:

Wilson Fisher

Robert L. Brownmer

Robt Alfred Hunt

Richard Remond Glazier

Chas W Mc Donald-Kora

Bryan H. McDonald

Bernard Leo Morgan

Harold W. McDonald

Ralph H Stringham

Paul O Reynolds

Jack D "

Henry Destringham

Clark Wilson

Bob Tanner

Thos. R. Harrison

George Kinsey Jr. 00

Geo Morris had a stone Quarry E. of Keetley

① "Under Wasatch Skies", p. 32

Park Utah Mine Facts:

" " " opened in 1916. ①  
When Geo Lornebourne & Geo Blood  
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long Ontario Drain Tunnel for a  
mining operation.

② "Under Watch Skies" p 30-31  
see also "Along the Road" by Geo A Fisher '350  
"Heart Throbs of the West" Vol II 1944 Kate  
by Carter p. 14



their families moved into Round Valley to supplement the few settlers already there."

Then in the early 1860's came the Bigelow, Butty, and Merham families, and were soon followed by the Davis, Burns, Thompson, Stoker, and Wheeler families. In 1862 a fort was constructed at the head of Spring Creek. Pioneer life in the valley was a pattern of close knit co-operation.

Twenty families lived in the fort's small, one-room dirt-roofed homes. A rough log meeting house in the center of the fort served for school, church, and social gatherings.

Farming was also cooperative. One large plot for all settlers was laid out, and in the fall all helped with the harvesting of the crops. The hills offered cherries and hops, and berry picking outings or hunting were among the few simple pleasures that life in the valley offered.

The Indian War in 1866 forced the people to move to Heber. But when the danger proved less than anticipated, the Wallshburg settlers moved back to their homes in the fall of the same year.

William Wall was not only the founder of the Round Valley settlement, he was also the first bishop. Following his death, William E. Nottal, the succeeding bishop, suggested changing the name of the community from Round Valley to Wallshburg.

#### KEETLEY

The Park Utah Mine was the focal point for the present town of Keetley. The mine opened in 1916 when George Lamblourne and George Blood secured rights to use the five mile long Ontario drain tunnel for mining operation. The town takes its name from John H.

Lloyd Ford, "History of Wallshburg," MSS. (Daughters of Utah Pioneers Historical Collection, Heber, Utah, 1933).

#### LATER VALLEY SETTLEMENTS

Keetley, the chief engineer in charge of driving the tunnel."

#### SOLDIERS SUMMIT

Soldiers Summit is the only town in Wasatch County which does not lie in the Provo Valley. It was named for soldiers of Johnston's Army, some of whom are said to have died and been buried on the top of the pass between the Colorado Basin and the Great Basin.<sup>13</sup> The town at one time was the center of Denver & Rio Grande railroad shop activity, but since the withdrawal of the shops most of the homes were torn down.

<sup>13</sup>George A. Fisher, *Along the Road* (Keetley, Utah, 1950), p. 43. Origin of Mormon Names of Cities, Mountains, Streams, Counties, etc. in the U. S., *Hurt Throbs of the West*, Vol. V compiled by Kate B. Carter, Salt Lake City, 1914, p. 14.



Keetley



This would seem to be a pretty good title but after we had convinced the Post Office Department that we had enough votes to warrant a postoffice at Keetley, they were not satisfied with land titles because they went back no further than the coming of the Mormons in 1847.

We therefore had Gunga Din, who is the only one around here claiming to know much about law, write to the Dept. as follows:

Please be advised that the government of the United States acquired the territory of Utah including the tract to which your inquiry applied, by purchase from the Republic of Mexico in the sacred Mexican tradition of Guadalupe Hidalgo in February, 1848.

The Republic of Mexico got its title from Porfirio Diaz who won it in a poker game from the followers of Cortez.

Cortez got his authority to line 'em up against the wall, from the government of Spain.

The government of Spain acquired title by the discovery of Christopher Columbus, explorer and resident of Genoa, Italy, who had an agreement about the acquisition of title to any land he discovered under the sponsorship and patronage of Her Majesty, the Queen of Spain.

The Queen of Spain had received sanction of her title by consent of the Pope, a resident of Rome, Italy, and presumably a Vice President of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ was the Son and heir apparent of God.

God made Utah.

We trust this meets with your request.

P. S. But you ought to have seen this layout when God owned it alone.

AT THIS POINT it is of more than passing interest to note that a great set of road builders were at that moment blazing the trail which brought you here tonight. I refer to the Mormon Pioneers, one of whom was my Dad who walked with the others the entire distance from Missouri to Salt Lake City. The organization had had a rough deal back there in Missouri and Illinois where their leaders, Joseph and Hyrum Smith, were brutally murdered by a mob.

Strapping on the armour of his dead leader which amounted to little more than an abiding faith in God, in himself, and in the cause he espoused, Brigham Young undertook the migration of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to the West.

Arriving here on July 24th, 1847, they were upon soil that was not yet part of the United States. Although the war was over and had been won by us, the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was not signed until the following February of 1848.



**KEETLEY HISTORY** Named after a man whose name was John H. Keetley and who was the engineer in charge of the work of driving a five mile mine tunnel through that mountain range. Those lights up there on the mountain side a mile away mark the portal to that tunnel.

KEETLEY is 6587 feet above sea level and is 750 miles from the nearest ocean port which is San Francisco. The nearest politician is miles and miles away. Neither do we have any mosquitoes or rattle snakes.

Lawns are the only things which get a rake off here.

We have no bonded indebtedness. Indeed, the only bonds we care anything about are defense bonds and the bonds of friendship.

We have a couple of dozen "First National Banks" whose husbands work in the mines. When they couldn't get silk or rayon, they used cotton..

The main street of the town runs westward to San Francisco and east to New York. Being forty miles from Salt Lake City, the highway got nicknamed "forty" and we understand that other States clear across the Nation have adopted this numeral. We would have you remember, however, that the road begins at Keetley and that we're anxious to have the road preserve its record for safe driving, so we have at the edge of town a sign: "Better 15 minutes late for St. Louis than 15 minutes early for St. Peter."

NOW THEREFORE, I, Geo. A. Fisher, by virtue of authority vested in me by Columbus, the Queen of Spain and others, do hereby proclaim, ordain and set up the Laws, Ordinances and Regulations of the Town of Keetley which follow pretty quick.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal to be affixed thereto.

GEO. A. FISHER,

Mayor

Chief of Police

Fire Department

Welfare Board.



Two Kinds of Utah Beauties

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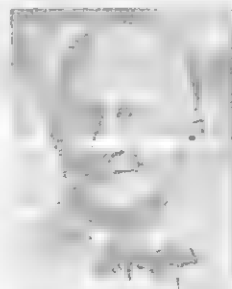
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One of the persons largely responsible for pin-pointing this wealth near Keetley was Oscar N. Friendly, a native of Oregon who studied mining engineering at the University of California at Berkeley. During his summer vacation periods he worked at the old Highland Boy mine in Salt Lake's Bingham District, and also at the Daly West mine in Park City. His first full time job after graduation in 1907 was an engineer-surveyor for the Daly West property. In 1909 he became engineer and geologist for the Daly Judge Mining Co., the firm which later was the nucleus of the Park Utah Mining Company.

George W. Lambourne, head of the Daly Judge firm asked Mr. Friendly to work on classification of rock formations in the Keetley area, and it was through this work that Mr. Friendly found there was more than one occurrence of ore in the area. His development work disclosed ore bodies extending through much of the region.

Another major developer of the area was Paul H. Hunt, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, and a California schoolmate of Mr. Friendly. He served as general manager of the Park Utah Mining Company, and then in 1925 when the Judge, Daly West, Park Utah, Ontario and other properties were merged to form the Park Utah Consolidated Mining Co., Mr. Hunt was named manager and Mr. Friendly assistant general manager.

In addition to his leadership in mining, Mr. Hunt was also a member of the Wasatch County Commission and served in both houses of the Utah Legislature. He was also founder and president of the Associated Civic Clubs of Northern Utah. He retired from mining in 1955 and died in California on April 17, 1958.

As the Park Utah Mining Company was doing its development work in the 1920's in the Blue Ledge area, those owning claims on the



Paul H. Hunt, general manager of the mines at Keetley for many years, and prominent in Wasatch County civic and political circles.

south side of McHenry Canyon made concentrated efforts to reach hidden treasures they all felt lay in the mountain ranges.

One group of claimants organized the Star of Utah under the direction of Charles (Charlie) Moore and John Fisher. Several Wasatch County men participated in this mining work. By 1930 the prospects showed ore rich enough to make financial success possible, and then the great depression of the 1930's struck the area and the work was slowed down.

Jack Keeler, a bachelor whose eyesight was so poor he could scarcely



Harry R. Wallace, early superintendent of the Park Utah Consolidated Mines

detect daylight from darkness, spent his lifetime in the area digging a tunnel which later proved to be headed directly for rich ore. However, old age and infirmity forced him to yield before he struck "pay dirt." He sold his claim to the Mayflower Corp., which was working from a different portal along with the Star of Utah group. Enough ore was transported by truck to Heber City from this portal that an extension spur of the Union Pacific Railroad was built to the property in 1941.

The Star of Utah and the Mayflower tunnel developments were eventually merged to form the New Park Mine, whose stock sold briskly on the New York Stock Exchange for several years.

This lead and zinc mining firm was a weird legal tangle when William Henry Harrison Cranmer took over as its president in 1934. The property was mortgaged, titles to its lands were clouded and there was a debt of some \$100,000. Mr. Cranmer borrowed money to clear liens against the title, sold small pieces of land to neighboring mining companies and struggled in many ways to secure sufficient capital to maintain operations.

Under Mr. Cranmer's leadership the New Park Mining Company has increased its property holdings from 1,100 acres to more than 10,000 acres. The Mayflower Mine has been modernized and a Mayflower Tunnel completed.

In recent years a depressed lead and zinc market has caused Mr. Cranmer to diversify New Park's holdings to overcome a slump in the company's mining operations. Now more of a holding company than an operating concern, New Park activity has embraced exploration in phosphate, potash, copper, gold, building stone, oil and uranium. Mr. Cranmer is also exploring and developing mineral lands in Wasatch County's Snake Creek Mining District.

New Park maintains its operating office at Keetley and its executive office in Salt Lake City. Gale A. Hansen is superintendent of mines at Keetley, with offices in the community's former school building.

The growth of Keetley as a community came largely as a result of the success of the Park Utah mine in the 1920's. The Ontario-Daly No. 2 Drain Tunnel had operated in the area since the late 1890's, but had never caused much community development. The tunnel, still operated by its owners, the United Park City Mines Company, was a dual blessing when it was completed. In addition to ridding the Ontario and Daly mines of excess water, it was a boon to farmers in the low-lands. Orson Hicken, David Hicken, Fred Hicken and others dug a canal to carry the waters down to the meadows.

Even before Keetley's mining boom, Mr. and Mrs. Gail Fisher lived in the area in a rambling farm house on the Fisher Ranch. When the Union Pacific Railroad came to the Keetley area in 1923 the community's future seemed secure, and Charles Roy Lenzi of Park City was hired to paint the houses and mine buildings that had been constructed around the Ontario-Daly tunnel.

decided to settle in the new area. He brought his family from Park City and settled in one of the nine houses along the ridge of the hill east of the mine building. Other homes were occupied by Archie Henderson, Will O'Brien, William Luke, Roy Pettie, Paul Hunt, William Fife, Ralph Stringham and George D. Blood. Later a house was built on the side of the road going down the ridge. Frank Hyde and later Harry Wallace, superintendent of the Park Utah Consolidated Mines, lived in this home. Another five families built homes in the canyon back of the mine building. These were Charles Welch, Al Ross, E. A. Hewitt, Robert Hyde and William Haueter. Mine buildings included an office, shops, boiler room, boarding house, commissary and two bunk houses. Later, two more bunk houses were built to accommodate the 500 to 600 men who came to the area in its boom days.

George A. Fisher, who did much of the land development in the area, supervised most of Keetley's growth. He built five modern homes, a combination store and gas station, and later an apartment house. He served as mayor of Keetley from the 1920's until his death in July, 1954. As mayor he directed the erection of an imposing school building.

Mr. Fisher, as mentioned earlier, also named the community in honor of Jack Keetley. This name created an interesting condition when postal service was inaugurated in the summer of 1923. Charles Roy Lenzi was named as postmaster and the service was very well received in the community. However, George Blood, acting superintendent of mines, discovered in the official community records that the town's name had been incorrectly recorded as "Keatley." A sign had even been placed over the post office with this incorrect spelling.

When the error was brought to the attention of the Postmaster General in Washington, he had to cancel the appointment of Charles Lenzi as postmaster, then recorded the name correctly and reappointed Mr. Lenzi as postmaster. This was done in November, 1923. Mr. Lenzi served continuously as Keetley's postmaster until 1952 when he retired and the post office was discontinued.



Charles Roy Lenzi



Lettie Lenzi

One of the most grueling tasks connected with mining in Keetley was hauling ore to Heber City before the railroad came to the area. Loads were weighed in at John A. Fortie's weighing station, and then the teamsters drove the distance to Heber's railroad depot. Some of the teamsters who shared the difficult assignment were James Provost, William Provost, William D. Murray, Bert Murray, John (Jack) Casper, Tom Harper, Craig Fisher, Ewing Peterson, Henry Clegg, John Noakes, Frank Hicken, George Giles, Hyrum Winterton, Theodore Jaspersen, Moroni Casper, Ray Davis, Leland Wootton, Addison O. Moulton, Henry Baird, Alwin Baird, John (Jack) Turner, Tom Rasband, Don Rasband, Arthur Moulton, Ernest Hicken, David Murdock, Clifford McDonald, Otto McDonald, and William Holmes.

Depressed mining conditions in recent years have resulted in a slowing down at Keetley. Many families have moved away, but the community is far from a "ghost town." Those who have remained carry on an active life in working at the mines, engaging in farming and operating the motel and other businesses along much traveled U.S. Highway 40.

The intrigue of prospecting for gold and other precious metals will probably keep Keetley alive forever. The fortunes that have been lost in fruitless shafts and barren tracts will never discourage some from believing that there are still new fortunes to be made.

Typical of this is the case of "Pete" Johnson, who prospected for years in Dutch Canyon. About 1923 he proposed to some fellow miners at the Park Utah that they join together in a prospecting venture. Roy Lenzi, George Olson, Lee Johnson, Charles Smith and Bert Lindsay agreed to grub-stake "Pete" in his efforts to find ore.

For more than a quarter of a century the claimants referred to their claim as the "Lost Capital of Poverty Gulch." However, in recent years "Pete" passed away, and when his estate was settled the claim was sold to the New Park Mining Company, and each of the participants received at least double their original investment.

With many others, they still believe that gold lies concealed in "them thar hills!"

## CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO

# *Of Mines and Men—the Story of Keetley*

Few pursuits in life have had more influence on men than mining. Civilization itself prospered as men learned to take metal ores from the earth and fashion the substance into useful tools. Precious minerals and valuable ores have caused great cities and small towns to rise and fall with mining's fortunes and tides. Many men have given their lives as they struggled to take nature's treasures from deep within the earth. Mining, too, has usually written the character, reference of men who pursued it, as some have been motivated by a sincere desire to find things they could share and others have searched only for themselves and their greed.

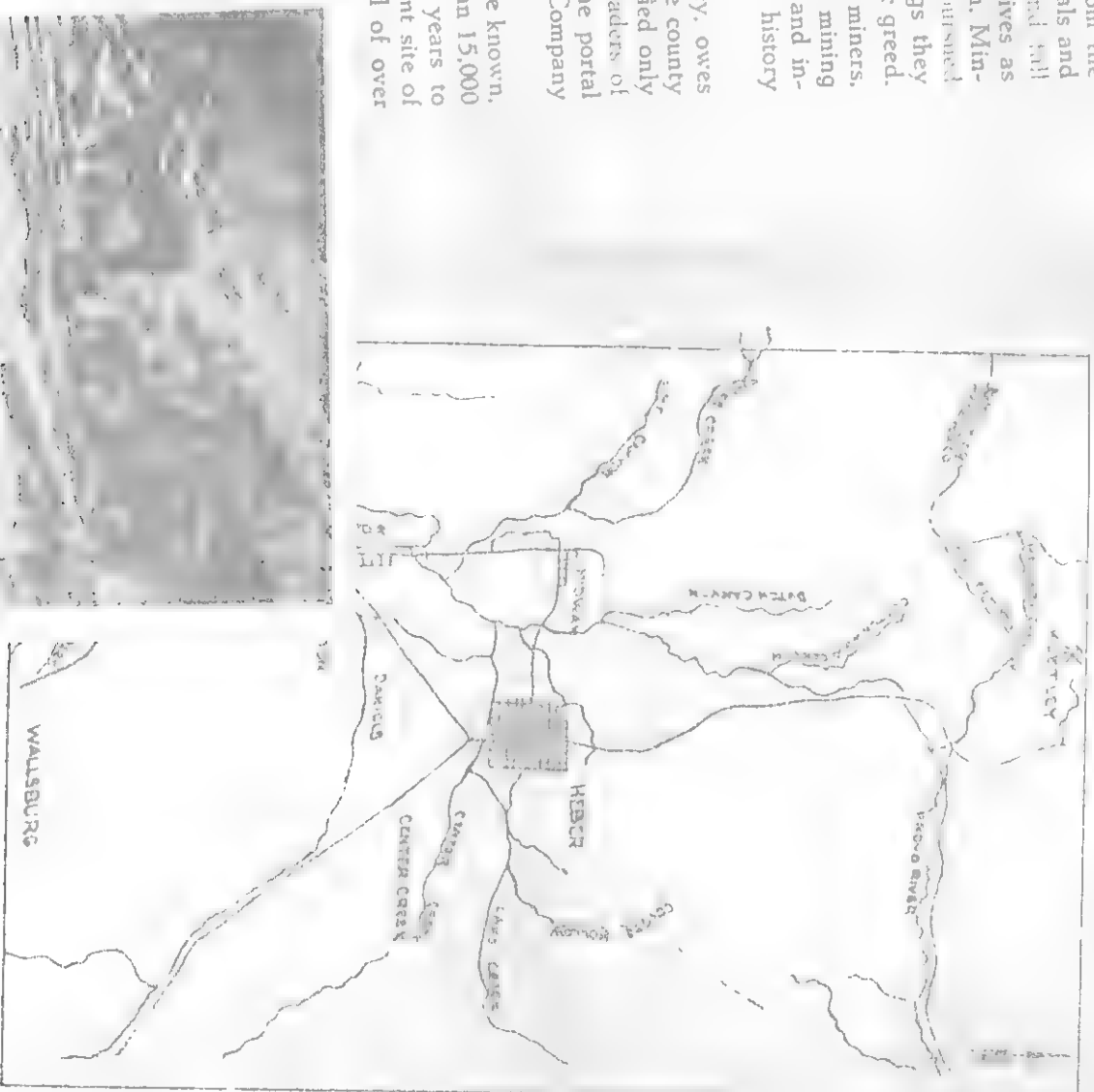
Wasatch County has been vitally concerned with mines and miners, as has already been explained in earlier chapters. Vigorous mining progress in the Park City area had a great impact on commerce and industry in Wasatch towns, and much of the county's colorful history centers around the men of the mines.

The county's northern-most settlement, the town of Keetley, owes its existence to mining activity. It was the last community in the county to be organized, and for several decades was known and identified only as a mining shaft. Its location was first plotted in 1887 when leaders of the Park City Mining District chose a point of elevation for the portal of a drainage tunnel from the properties of the Daly Mining Company and the Ontario Silver Mining Company.

The Ontario-Daly No. 2 Drain Tunnel, as the project became known, was a tremendous undertaking for the time. It was to be more than 15,000 feet in length, cost nearly half a million dollars and take six years to complete. By 1898 the tunnel had been extended from the present site of Keetley into the Daly West Mining Company ground, a total of over 20,500 feet and had cost well over \$670,000.

The man chosen to supervise the work on the tunnel was west's most picturesque mining characters, John B. "Jack" Powell, well known for his Pony Express riding as for his mining prowess. He reportedly purchased the famous Last Chance property at Bin the original locator for a horse and saddle, and paid for build on the claim with a six shooter. After working the property Mr. Keetley sold it for \$17,000. The claim has since yielded dollars worth of ore.

A generous man, Mr. Keetley was particularly fond of Many residents of Wasatch County today who were young!





## "UNDER WASATCH SKIES"

### KEETLEY

Keetley is 10 miles north of Helper in the heart of Utah's Silver-lead mining district and the 1500 acre Fisher Ranch.

The town of Keetley was built in 1923 on the Fisher Ranch by George A. Fisher.

It is the hub of the community life of the Park Utah and New Park Mining Companies.

Mr. George A. Fisher planned and supervised the building of the town and was the mayor of Keetley until his death in July 1954.

### HALLSTONE

The site of Hallstone was settled about 1883 and was named for Stephen Hallstone who established a ranch there. Mr. Hallstone married Emily Davis the daughter of William Davis. Mr. William Davis the directly from Wiltshire, England to Hallstone in 1864 and lived there with his family most of his life. He was the presiding elder of that district, which included the country as far as Keetley, for some years.

Bishop Henry Huff, Sr., who also presided over the district changed the name from Hallstone to Elkhorn. But the original name was taken back and is used today.

The Davis family still retains residence at Hallstone.

## CHAPTER IV

### PIONEER LIFE

Wasatch settlers brought to the pioneer struggle very little in the way of material resources. An ox or two a wagonload of goods, and usually a gun were the items constituting their physical possessions. There were no homes to come to with pigs, furniture, beds, and lights. Nor were there roads, or schools, or church buildings stores, or a thousand and one other things to which we are accustomed. These had to be built and at the same time crops had to be raised and shelter provided.

Shelter is perhaps a better word than home to describe the first hurried buildings by a people who had to spend most of their time plowing the land and putting in a crop. A wickiup made of brush, covered with weed-stems and dirt, or a dugout in a hill—whichever was most expedient—was the common solution.

The food was also appropriate to their situation. Elizabeth Fillmore tells how John and Mary Ann Fanchett moved to Midway when there were only five families there. "They lived in a dugout the first year and subsisted on roots, large squirrels, and baked wheat."

As soon as the first crops were planted, a number of log cabins rose to replace the dugouts and wickiups. They were to last until the sawmills were built to provide the lumber for frame houses and furniture. These log cabins were chinked with mud and roofed with long grass and dirt. The entire family crowded into the single room with a fireplace in one end and the beds in the other. The beds were built into the wall by running

John Fanchett, Mary Ann Fanchett, Elizabeth Fillmore, and Mary Ann Fanchett, in the early days of settlement in the Wasatch Mountains.



# Getting The Ore Out

in by L. M. Anderson, P.O. Box 76, Ekanore, Utah, and at the right is one sent by Alex Gibson, 865 Harrison, Ave., Salt Lake City who appears in the picture himself. He is the man on the left. Each will receive \$10.

address on the back of your best mining photographs and mail them to Mining, The Salt Lake Tribune, P.O. Box 867, Salt Lake City, Utah, along with what information you may have on where and when the picture was taken and what it show.

THE TRIBUNE, cooperating with the Centennial of Mining in Utah, will pay \$10 for each picture published. Pictures will be copied and one will be retained by the Tribune and one made available to the Utah Historical Society. In case of duplicate entries, the picture will be considered for the award. All pictures will be returned.

From the mine in 1899 or early 1900. Mule which he used is Samuel Dugmore, who operated the hoist there for 20 years. Dog went to work with him, waited until he finished.

Early West mine in 1899 or early 1900. Mule which he used is Samuel Dugmore, who operated the hoist there for 20 years. Dog went to work with him, waited until he finished.

Some of the early ice cutters included George T. Watkins, John Luke, Fred Haueter, Ulrich Kuhn, Albert Lockner, Joseph Galli and Joseph Abegglen.

### MINING

Midway had still not been formed from the two Snake Creek communities when the first high grade ore was discovered in 1864 in the Park City mining district. While the discoveries were not in the Midway area, their impact was soon to be felt in the new community. Other outcroppings of good grade ore were discovered in American Fork Canyon in 1875. Midway lay almost in the middle of these two important discoveries and the areas of Snake Creek, Pine Creek and Dutch Canyon soon were overrun with prospectors. Many claims were staked out in this area, with Sidney H. Epperson, Jeremiah Robey and Nathan Springer leading much of the prospecting work.

Following the initial discoveries in the Park City area the Ontario, Daily Judge, Daily West, American Flag, New Quincy, Little Bell, New York, Wabash, California, Silver King, Park Utah, Spirro Tunnel, New Park and the Park City mines were organized. Many smaller mines were discovered, but soon were consolidated with the larger companies.

Park City began to grow rapidly with these discoveries, and for more than half a century the mining work supported two railroads, the Denver and Rio Grande and the Union Pacific. The Park City mining district is about eight miles north of Midway, and for more than 75 years has served as the major market center for the farmers of Midway. The mines also furnished employment for many men from Midway who chose mining as their pursuit for wealth and happiness. Many prospered, some failed and several lost their lives or were maimed in a sincere effort to succeed.

In American Fork Canyon the first discoveries were made around 1875 and by 1888 the Miller Hill, the Dutchman and the Pacific mines were the three major producers. These mines operated for many years, but the ore bodies were relatively small and soon were depleted. However, for a few years these mines supported the state's first narrow gauge railroad.

These American Fork Canyon mines also served as a market for eggs, butter, cheese and vegetables for Midway farmers. Reports indicate that some of the farmers carried as much as 75 pounds of produce on their backs, following a rough trail over the mountains west of Midway into the canyon to supply the needs of the miners.

In the Midway area itself a mining district was organized, known as the Blue Ledge mining district. Two of the earliest mines were the Flagg Staff and Lucky Bill, neither of which produced much ore. Other early properties near Midway included the Southern Tier group and the St. Louis-Vasser claims. The Southern Tier group was owned by Eugene Levigneur and a Mr. St. Joer, both Frenchmen. From the Southern Tier







